

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

The information provided below is a guide/explanation of the Emergency Alert (SIREN) Systems two distinctly different siren tones utilized to alert the Public. In addition the three phases of a Weather Warning and their definitions are provided, and are helpful in preparing for inclement weather, and its effects on the WSMR workforce.

Directors and Commander's of Team WSMR must have action plan for their building/buildings that clearly instructs personnel of what to do in the event of an Attention or Alert Signal.

- Building Evacuation Plan (Bomb or Fire)
- Rally Points
- Accountability of Personnel Procedures
- Safe Locations within buildings
- Nearest basement or safe location to go to. Must be coordinated with the facility coordinate in which you designate to your personnel to go to.
- If employees work outside or up range you must have procedures in place to get in touch with them to pass emergency information to them or account for them

Personnel and families living in housing should have a plan comprised of a family communications plan, an emergency Supplies kit and a plan for any pets in your household. A complete plan guide plan can be obtained online at www.ready.gov. Finally be prepared to receive essential information through local media, such as public address systems, emails, supervisory channels, TV channel 20 or radio.

1. Emergency Alert System. The Emergency Alert System utilizes sirens placed around the installation. NOTE: The SIREN could be hard to hear inside buildings, thus paying attention to weather warnings and the current weather situation is very important. Preparedness is 95% of the battle.
2. The system is tested every month by the EOC. The EOC will announce to the installation in advance when a test will be conducted. Tests will not be conducted if bad weather is in the area or if other situations may confuse the population.
3. Siren warnings are:

SEVERE INCIDENT WARNING SIGNAL -- a 3-to 5-minute wavering tone on sirens, repeated as deemed necessary. The SEVERE INCIDENT WARNING SIGNAL shall mean that an actual on post severe incident such as a radiological/hazardous or missile mishap has occurred and that protective actions should be taken immediately. The installation/activity population should prepare to receive essential information through local media, such as public address systems, emails, supervisory channels, TV channel 20 or radio. i.e. Instructions to shelter in place or seek shelter immediately.

ATTENTION or ALERT SIGNAL -- a 3-to-5-minute steady tone on sirens, horns, or other devices. This signal may be used for any peacetime emergency, e.g., weather situations, threats, in which the Commander desires to get the attention of the installation/activity population to prepare to receive essential information through local media, such as public address systems, emails, supervisory channels, TV channel 20 or radio. With enough advanced warning the Commander may order post evacuation or other safety related instructions to the work force, i.e. Shelter in place or seek shelter immediately.

Police and Fire may also utilize PUBLIC ADDRESS systems located on their vehicles to warn employees and residents.

4. The Federal Government and the State of New Mexico provide an extensive online library with Emergency Preparedness information for individuals and families. <http://www.opm.gov/emergency/> or from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency, <http://www.fema.gov/plan/index.shtm> and www.ready.gov.

5. Weather Warnings are provided to the EOC by the WSMR Weather Office. The EOC will issue email alerts when they are received. It is the responsibility of Directors, Commanders, Supervisors and employees to check the weather to ensure it is safe to perform their operations when working outside.

Phase I Warnings, "Possibly Dangerous, Use Caution", includes the following weather:

- Wind gusts 35-55 MPH (30-50 KTS) with possible higher gusts slopes/S.A. Pass.
- Visibility less than either one mile or three miles due to fog, blowing dust/sand or snow.
- General Thunderstorms with cloud to ground lightning, the potential of wind gusts 35-55 mph and hail less than one half inch.
- Heavy rainfall where the threat of low level flooding exists.
- Snowfall less than 4 inches.
- Freezing conditions with ice and/or snow pack on roads.

Phase II Warnings, "Very Dangerous-Use Extreme Caution", includes the following weather:

- Wind gusts 55-85 mph (50-75 KTS), blowing dust/sand and visibility less than 3 miles.
- Severe Thunderstorm Watch. This means conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms across the range. Severe thunderstorms are defined as

thunderstorms with intense cloud to ground lightning, wind gusts over 55 MPH (50 KTS), blinding rain, possible hail larger than a half inch in diameter. Severe thunderstorms are also capable of producing funnel clouds or tornadoes with little or no warning.

-Flash Flood Watch. This indicates high potential for flash flooding especially in and near thunderstorms.

-Tornado Watch. High potential for tornadoes or funnel clouds. Stay alert and be prepared to take shelter immediately.

-Heavy Snow greater than 4 inches.

Phase III Warnings, "Life Threatening", includes the following weather:

-SEVERE damaging wind storm with winds greater than 85 MPH (75 KTS).

-Flash Flood Warning, this indicates dangerous flash flooding observed or that an area is in imminent danger.

-Tornado Warning. A tornado has been sighted or indicated by Doppler radar and is either on White Sands Missile Range or is an imminent threat to the range. Take shelter immediately. You will hear a 3-to-5-minute steady tone.

-Severe Thunderstorm Warning. A severe thunderstorm has been sighted or observed by Doppler radar and is either on White Sands Missile Range or is threatening to occur on the range. Take shelter immediately. Severe thunderstorms have intense cloud to ground lightning, wind gusts over 55 MPH (50 KTS), blinding rain, possible hail larger than a half inch in diameter. Severe thunderstorms are also capable of producing funnel clouds or tornadoes with little or no warning. You will hear a 3-to-5-minute steady tone.